

REMARKS

Claims 28-39 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 28 is amended to recite additional features disclosed in this specification, for example, Figs. 3 and 4; and paragraphs [0035] and [0036]. Claims 28-32, 35 and 37-39 are amended to recite a diesel particulate filter. See the specification at, for example, paragraph [0009]. Reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

The Office Action asserts that claims 32-39 are directed to non-elected species. Accordingly, claims 32-39 are withdrawn.

However, the withdrawal of claims 32-39 is respectfully traversed. It is respectfully submitted that the additional features recited in at least claims 32-34 and 36 are not mutually exclusive from the features recited in the "elected" claims. In fact, these additional features are not mutually exclusive from features recited in any of the other claims. Thus, it is improper to withdraw claims 32-34 and 36 from consideration. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that at least claims 32-34 and 36 be rejoined and examined with claims 28-31. It is also respectfully submitted that this request should be honored regardless whether claims 32-34 and 36 will be automatically rejoined and allowed when claim 28 is allowed.

The Office Action rejects claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,143,058 to Dahlgren et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Dahlgren discloses "feeding" recited in claim 28. Claim 28 is amended to recite "wherein feeding the material compresses applying a pressure to the material," as outlined above. Dahlgren does not disclose or suggest the application of a pressure, as recited in claim 28.

In particular, Dahlgren only discloses placing a sample in a humidity chamber for the sample to adsorb water vapor. See col. 10, lines 1-47. One of ordinary skill understands that the adsorption of water vapor could be achieved by a diffusion process of the water vapor,

and does not necessarily require the application of a pressure. Dahlgren does not disclose or suggest applying a pressure. Therefore, Dahlgren does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 28, and claims 29 and 30 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) over Dahlgren is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,716,899 to Guile et al. ("Guile"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action gives no weight to the recitation "taking said amount as said value," asserting that such a recitation is purely a function, which is a mental process, not a tangible process step.

Claim 28 is amended to recite "calculating said value ... based on said amount." Such a "calculating step" is a tangible process step. Claim 28 is also amended to recite "recording said value based on the calculation," which is also a tangible process step. As asserted in the February 7, 2007 Amendment, Guile does not disclose or suggest these steps, as recited in claim 28.

Furthermore, Guile does not disclose or suggest a diesel particulate filter, as recited in claim 28. In particular, Guile discloses a device which requires the presence of open-pores. See col. 4, lines 53-63. On the other hand, one of ordinary skill understands that a diesel particulate filter (DPF) requires the presence of communicated pores (see, for example, Fig. 1 of the present application). Guile does not disclose or suggest such a diesel particulate filter having such communicated pores for filtration.

For at least the above reasons, Guile does not disclose each and every element recited in claim 28, and claims 29-31 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) over Guile is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 2002/0025290 to Chang. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Chang discloses a sieve. The Office Action further asserts that the sieve is a porous structure.

Claim 28 is amended to recite a honeycomb body having a plurality of passages separated by partition walls having a predetermined pitch. Chang does not disclose or suggest these additional features, as recited in claim 28.

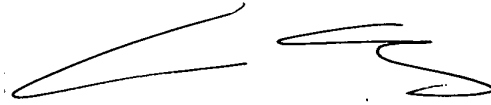
In particular, Chang only discloses a sieve. A sieve does not have a plurality of parallel passages separated by partition walls having a predetermined pitch. Thus, Chang does not disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claim 28, and claims 29 and 30 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. §§102(b) and 103(a) over Chang is respectfully requested.

Claims 32-39 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 28, from which they depend, as well as for additional features they recite. Thus, rejoinder and allowance of claims 32-39 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 28-39 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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